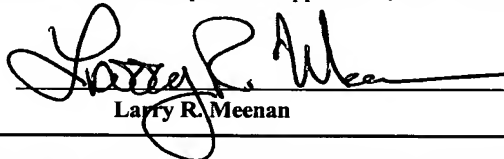


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV191491208US, in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: September 19, 2003

  
Larry R. Meenan

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Application of:	)	
DON C. ROWLETT et al.	)	Group Art Unit
	)	
Serial No. (to be assigned)	)	
	)	Examiner To be assigned
Filed: September 19, 2003	)	
	)	
For: SEEDING TOOL	)	Attorney Docket K-1988

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September 19, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicant(s) submit herewith a PTO-1449 listing patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware and that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed:

☒ under 37 CFR 1.97(b); within three (3) months of the filing of a national application; within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114, whichever event occurs last.

☐ under 37 CFR 1.97(c); after three (3) months of the filing of a national application, or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or after the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurred last but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, whichever occurs first. Also submitted herewith is:

☐ a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e); or

- ☐ the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) to be paid as provided below.
- ☐ under 37 CFR 1.97(d); after a Final Action under Section 1.113, or a Notice of Allowance under Section 1.311, whichever occurs first, but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee. Submitted herewith is a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) and the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) to be paid as provided below.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)**

- ☐ This is a statement under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) in the above-identified application.
- ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the accompanying information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the accompanying information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned person, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the accompanying information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

**PRIOR APPLICATIONS**

- ☐ This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application(s):

Those references listed on the attached form and not submitted herewith were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) identified above and therefore, are not required to be provided in this application.

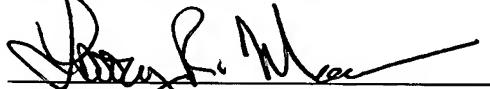
**FEES**

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.



The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required by this submission and to credit Deposit Account No. 11-0508 any overpayment. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry R. Meenan

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 33,423

Date: September 19, 2003

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	(to be assigned)
Filing Date	September 19, 2003
First Named Inventor	Don C. Rowlett
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	K-1988

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 4,655,296	04-07-1987	Bourgault et al.	
		US- 6,363,871 B1	04-02-2002	Puetz et al.	
		US- 4,762,183	08-09-1988	Bourgault et al.	
		US- 6,584,920 B1	07-01-2003	Cresswell	
		US- 6,571,884 B1	06-03-2003	Horvath et al.	
		US- 6,216,616 B1	04-17-2001	Bourgault	
		US- 6,237,697 B1	05-29-2001	Butterfield et al.	
		US- 6,260,632 B1	07-17-2001	Bourgault et al.	
		US- 5,711,378	01-27-1998	Yeager	
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		US- 6,042,326	03-28-2000	Thomas et al.	
		US- 5,355,963	10-18-1994	Boyko et al.	
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		US- 5,592,889	01-14-1997	Bourgault	
		US- 5,431,232	07-11-1995	Kirsch	
		US- 5,357,884	10-25-1994	Bourgault	
		US- 4,993,499	02-19-1991	Bourgault et al.	
		US- 5,251,704	10-12-1993	Bourgault et al.	
		US- 5,062,572	11/05/1991	Reiter et al.	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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Sheet 2

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Application Number	(to be assigned)
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Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	K-1988

[illegible][illegible]

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